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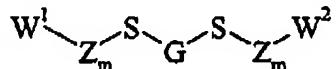
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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the current application.

Listing of Claims

**Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of a the formula 1:**



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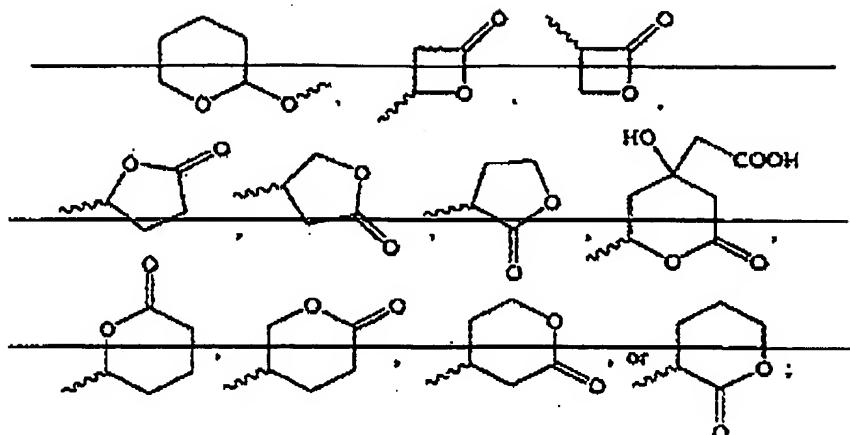
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is independently ~~CH<sub>2</sub>, CII=CII, or phenyl, and where each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9, but when Z is phenyl then its associated m is 1;~~
- (b) G is (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>x</sub>, where x is 2, 3, or 4, ~~CH<sub>2</sub>CH=CHCH<sub>2</sub>, CH=CH, CH<sub>2</sub>-phenyl-CH<sub>2</sub>, or phenyl;~~
- (c) W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> are independently L, V, or C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-C(R<sup>3</sup>)(R<sup>4</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Y, or C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-V where c is 1 or 2 and n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (d) each occurrence of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> is independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl or when one or both of W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> is C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>c</sub>-C(R<sup>3</sup>)(R<sup>4</sup>)-Y, then R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> can both be H to form a methylene group; or R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>7</sub>)cycloalkyl group;
- (e) each occurrence of R<sup>3</sup> or R<sup>4</sup> is independently H, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkoxy, phenyl, benzyl, Cl, Br, CN, NO<sub>2</sub>, or CF<sub>3</sub>, with the proviso that when R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are both H, then one of R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> is not H;
- (f) L is C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-Y where n is an integer from 0 to 4;

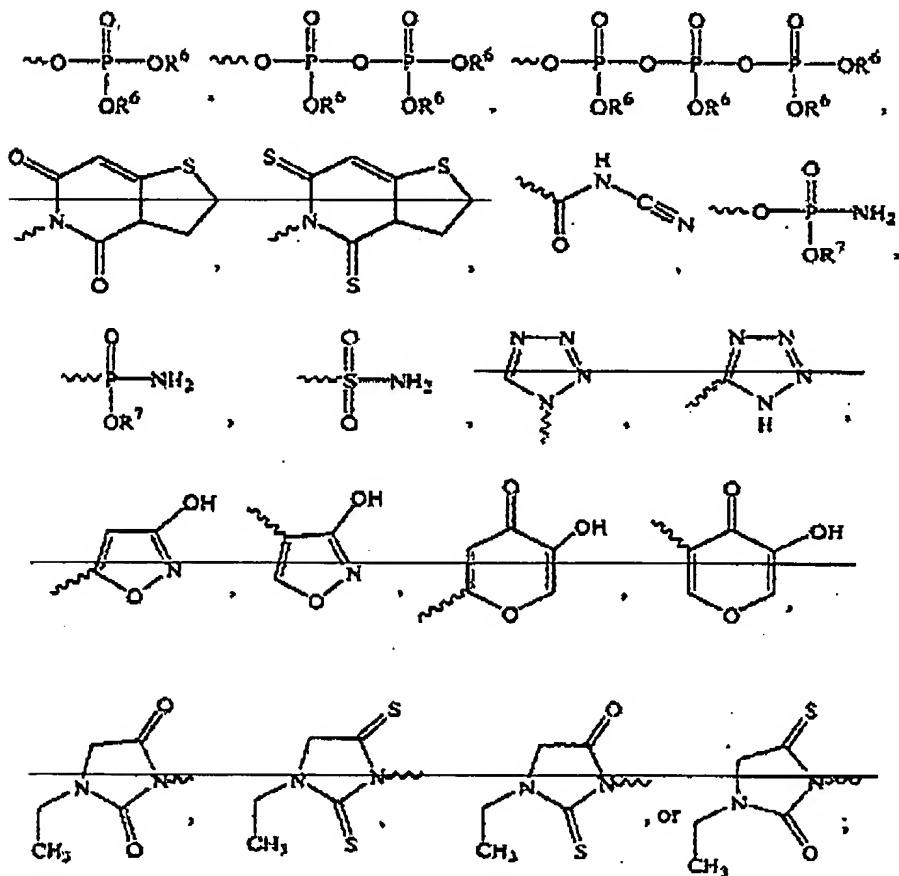
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(e)  $\text{Vis}$ 

(f)(g) each occurrence of Y is independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO, COOR<sup>5</sup>, SO<sub>3</sub>H,



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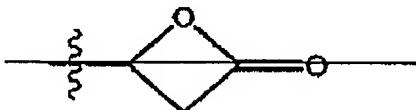
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where

- (i)  $R^5$  is  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
- (ii) each occurrence of  $R^6$  is independently H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and
- (iii) each occurrence of  $R^7$  is independently H,  $(C_1-C_6)$ alkyl,  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(C_2-C_6)$ alkynyl; and

provided that:

- (i) if  $G$  is  $(CH_2)_x$ ,  $x$  is 2, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 1, and  $W^1$  is of the structure



then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;

- (ii)(i) if  $G$  is  $(CH_2)_x$ ,  $x$  is 2, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 3, and  $W^1 - C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ;

- (iii)(ii) if  $G$  is  $(CH_2)_x$ ,  $x$  is 3, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 5, and  $W^1 - C(CH_3)_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ; and

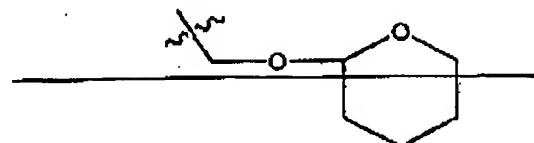
- (iv)(iii) if  $G$  is  $(CH_2)_x$ ,  $x$  is 3, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 5, and  $W^1 - CCl_2CO_2CH_3$ , then  $W^2$  is not the same as  $W^1$ ; and

- (v) if  $G$  is phenyl, each occurrence of  $Z$  is  $CH_2$ , each occurrence of  $m$  is 4, and  $W^1$  is of the structure

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~~then W<sup>2</sup> is not the same as W<sup>1</sup>.~~

Claim 2 (currently amended). The compound of claim 1, wherein:

- (a) W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> are independently both L, V, or C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>V where n is 1 or 2; and
- (b) R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> are independently (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkenyl, (C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein W<sup>1</sup> is L.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (currently amended). The compound of claim 2 1, wherein W<sup>1</sup> is C(R<sup>1</sup>)(R<sup>2</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>C(R<sup>3</sup>)(R<sup>4</sup>)-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>p</sub>Y where n is an integer from 0 to 4.

Claim 6 (canceled).

Claim 7 (original). The compound of claim 2, wherein W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> are independent L groups.

Claim 8 (original). The compound of claim 1, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, COOR<sup>5</sup>, or COOH.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A compound of the formula Ia:



Ia

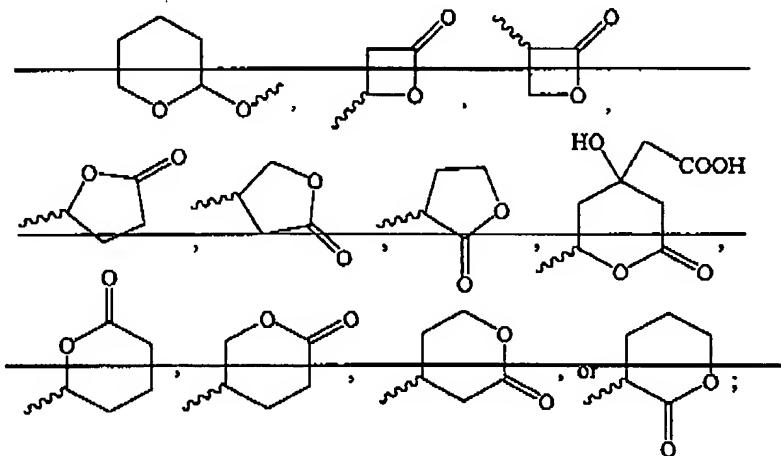
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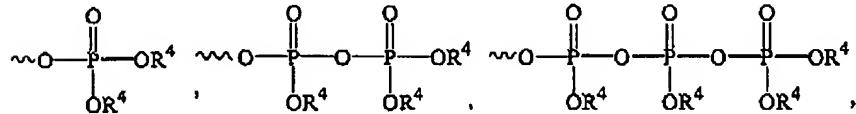
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or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, hydrate, solvate, or a mixture thereof, wherein

- (a) each occurrence of Z is independently  $\text{CH}_2$  or  $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ , wherein each occurrence of m is independently an integer ranging from 1 to 9;
- (b) G is  $(\text{CH}_2)_x$ ,  $\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}=\text{CH}$ , where x is 2, 3, or 4;
- (c)  $\text{W}^1$  and  $\text{W}^2$  are independently L, V, or  $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{V}$ , where n is 1 or 2;
- (d) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  is independently ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ )alkyl, ( $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ )alkenyl, ( $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ )alkynyl, phenyl, benzyl, or  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  and the carbon to which they are both attached are taken together to form a ( $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_7$ )cycloakyl group;
- (e) L is  $\text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{R}^2)-(\text{CH}_2)_n-\text{Y}$ , where n is an integer ranging from 0 to 4;
- (f) V is



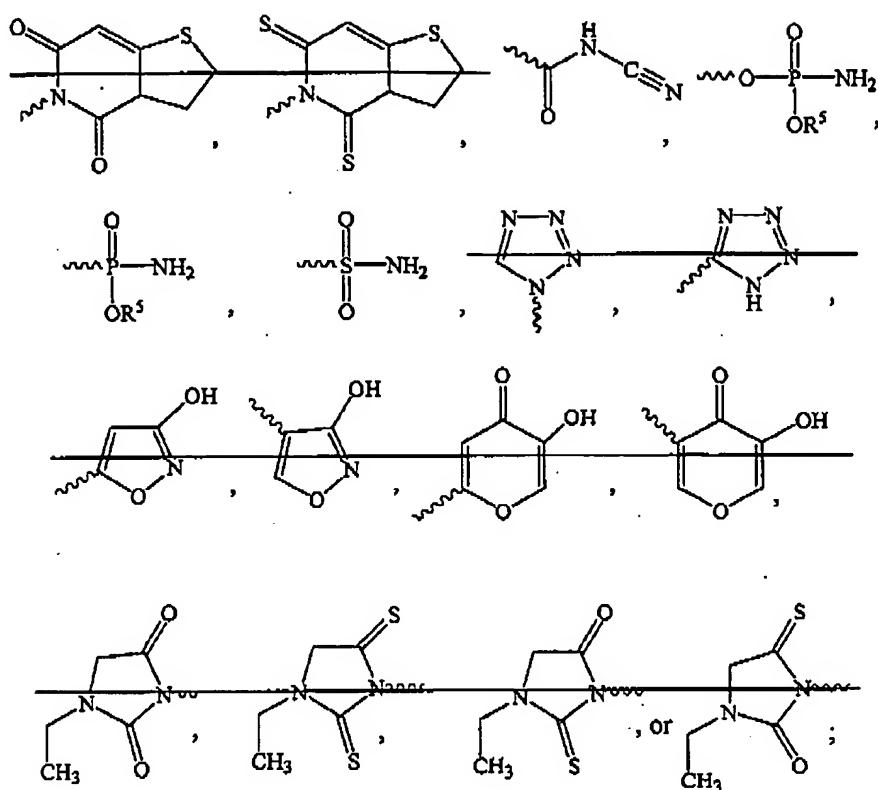
- (g)(f) each occurrence of Y is independently ( $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ )alkyl, OH, COOH, CHO,  $\text{COOR}^3$ ,  $\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,



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where

- (i)  $\text{R}^3$  is  $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkenyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkynyl, phenyl, or benzyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or more halo, OH,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkoxy, or phenyl groups,
- (ii) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^4$  is independently H,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkynyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with one or two halo, OH,  $\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6$  alkoxy, or phenyl groups; and
- (iii) each occurrence of  $\text{R}^5$  is independently H,  $(\text{C}_1\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkyl,  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkenyl, or  $(\text{C}_2\text{-}\text{C}_6)$ alkynyl; and

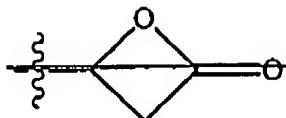
provided that:

- (i) if  $\text{x}$  is 2, each occurrence of  $\text{Z}$  is  $\text{CH}_2$ , each occurrence of  $\text{m}$  is 1, and  $\text{W}^\dagger$  is of the structure

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~~then W<sup>2</sup> is not the same as W<sup>1</sup>;~~

(ii)(i) if x is 2, each occurrence of Z is CH<sub>2</sub>, each occurrence of m is 3, and W<sup>1</sup>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, then W<sup>2</sup> is not the same as W<sup>1</sup>;

(iii)(ii) if x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH<sub>2</sub>, each occurrence of m is 5, and W<sup>1</sup>-C(CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, then W<sup>2</sup> is not the same as W<sup>1</sup>; and

(iv)(iii) if x is 3, each occurrence of Z is CH<sub>2</sub>, each occurrence of m is 5, and W<sup>1</sup>-CCl<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>3</sub>, then W<sup>2</sup> is not the same as W<sup>1</sup>.

Claims 10-12 (canceled).

Claim 13 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein W<sup>1</sup> and W<sup>2</sup> are independent L groups.

Claim 14 (original). The compound of claim 9, wherein each occurrence of Y is independently OH, COOR<sup>3</sup>, or COOH.

Claims 15-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended). A compound according to claim 1, having the formula 5-[2-(4-carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsufanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid.

Claims 20-33 (canceled).

Claim 34 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

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Claim 35 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising one of the following compounds:

5-[2-(5-hydroxy-4,4-dimethyl-pentasulfanyl)-ethoxysulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentan-1-ol or 5-[2-(4-Carboxy-4-methyl-pentylsulfanyl)-ethylsulfanyl]-2,2-dimethyl-pentanoic acid or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, hydrates, solvates, clathrates, enantiomers, diasteriomers, racemates or mixtures of stereoisomers thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 36 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 37 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipidemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 38 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a dyslipoproteinemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 39 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a disorder of glucose metabolism in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 40 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Alzheimer's Disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

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Claim 41 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing Syndrome X in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 42 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing septicemia in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 43 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a thrombotic disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 44 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a peroxisome proliferator activated receptor associated disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 45 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing obesity in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 46 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing pancreatitis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 47 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing hypertension in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

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Claim 48 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing renal disease in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 49 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing cancer in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 50 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing inflammation in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 51 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing impotence in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 52 (currently amended). A method for treating or preventing a neurodegenerative disease or disorder in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 53 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting hepatic fatty acid synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 54 (currently amended). A method of inhibiting sterol synthesis in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 ~~or~~ 30.

Claim 55 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing metabolic syndrome disorders in a patient, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment

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or prevention a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9,  
or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 56 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by increasing HDL levels, which comprises administering to a patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.

Claim 57 (currently amended). A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder that is capable of being treated or prevented by lowering LDL levels, which comprises administering to such patient in need of such treatment or prevention a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1, 9, or 15, 18, 20, 21, 26 or 30.